GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2351
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2002
ILL EFFECTS OF PESTICIDE IN KERALA
P.C. THOMAS

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Endosulfan, a pesticide distributed in Kerala has been found to be disastrous;

(b) whether Union Government has taken any action in this regard;

(c) if so, the details and the results thereof ;

(d) whether any accountability has been fixed in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefore?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) to (f): As informed by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation which is the concerned administrative Deptt. they are aware of the reported unusual illness allegedly caused by the aerial spraying of Endosulfan in Kerala.

In the light of the above concern, the Registration Committee under the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation which is constituted under Section 5 of the Insecticides Act, 1968 has set up an Expert Group consisting of experts from Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR), All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and National Institute of Occupational Health (NIOH) to examine
(i) the reports of National Institute of Occupational Health, Dr. Achuthan Committee, which was set up by Govt. of Kerala, the Report of Government of Kerala on aerial spraying of endosulfan in Kerala and other related reports
(ii) safety assessment of endosulfan; and to recommend its continued or restricted use or otherwise. The report of the Expert Group is awaited.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been requested to extend the necessary medical help in affected area of the Kasargod district of Kerala.